

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed September 13, 2005. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 1, 7, 14, 18, 20, 27, 31, 42, 48, and 55. Applicants cancel Claims 2, 6, 8-13, 15, 19, 21-26, 28, 33, 35-41, 43, 47, 49-54, and 56 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 6, 19, 33, and 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the purposes of expediting prosecution, Applicants rewrite Claims 1, 14, 27, and 35 to include elements of Claims 6, 19, 33, and 47. Claims 1, 14, 27, and 35 are thus allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indications.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,502,213 issued to Bowman-Amuah ("*Bowman*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,671,508 issued to Mitsuoka et al. ("*Mitsuoka*"). As noted above, Applicants rewrite Claims 1, 14, 27, and 42 to include elements of Claims 6, 19, 33, and 47 that the Examiner indicates would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 14, 27, and 42 are thus allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Additionally, Applicants cancel Claims 2, 6, 15, 19, 28, 33, 43, and 47. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 14, 27, and 42, and their respective dependents.

Applicants additionally amend Claim 55 to include elements of Claim 6 that the Examiner indicates are not disclosed by the cited reference. Claim 55 is thus allowable for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 55.

For the purposes of expediting prosecution, Applicants cancel claims 8-13, 21-26, 35-41, 49-54, and 56 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully note that with respect to all cancellations and amendments herein, Applicants reserve the right to pursue broader subject matter than that presently claimed through the filing of continuations and/or other related applications.

Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,



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